



House of Representatives

File No. 812

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

(Reprint of File No. 123)

House Bill No. 6292
As Amended by House
Amendment Schedule "B"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 31, 2003

AN ACT ENSURING THE SAFETY OF VACANT BUILDINGS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) If an owner of a building
2 or portion of a building that has been unoccupied and disconnected
3 from the electric distribution system for a period of six months or
4 longer wishes to resume delivery of electricity to such building or
5 portion of such building, the owner shall contract with an electrician
6 licensed pursuant to chapter 393 of the general statutes, at the expense
7 of the owner of such building, to inspect the electric conductors and
8 equipment up to and including the main device to disconnect electric
9 power to such building. The electrician shall provide written notice to
10 the electric distribution company, as defined in section 16-1 of the
11 general statutes, authorized to provide electric distribution services to
12 the service area in which such building is located that such equipment
13 is electrically safe and does not constitute a public safety hazard. Upon
14 receipt of the written notice, the electric distribution company shall
15 promptly resume delivery of electricity to such building or portion of
16 such building.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Public Safety, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Passage of the bill would not result in any fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

Local building officials currently have the responsibility of making safety determinations on vacant buildings where electric meters have been disconnected for six or more months. The bill requires that licensed electricians make such determinations at the expense of the owners of such buildings. It is anticipated that where vacant state buildings are involved, state employed electricians would continue to be used to conduct these inspections.

House Amendment "B" makes clarifying changes and does not alter the fiscal impact stated in the original bill.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6292 (as amended by House "B")*

AN ACT ENSURING THE SAFETY OF VACANT BUILDINGS**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires building owners who wish to resume electricity delivery to certain buildings to contract with a licensed electrician to inspect the electrical switch, including the main power disconnect switch, to determine that they are electrically safe and not a public safety hazard. The bill applies to any building (or part of a building) that has been unoccupied and disconnected from the electric grid for six or more months. In areas served by Connecticut Light and Power and United Illuminating, but not municipal utilities, the bill requires the electrician to give written notice of his determination to the company that provides electric distribution services. It requires the company to resume electricity delivery promptly, once notified.

The bill requires the building owner to pay for the inspection.

*House Amendment "B" requires building owners to contract with electricians for the inspections.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

BACKGROUND***Legislative History***

On April 9, the House referred the bill (File 23) to the Energy and Technology Committee, which reported it without changes on April 15.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 20 Nay 0

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Vote Not Available